

State: Colorado

Part I: Attachments
OMB Control Number: 1820-0664
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Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency:

University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency:

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Assistive Technology Partners

Address of Lead Agency:

UCDHSC at Fitzsimons, Grants and Contracts

Fitzsimons Building 500, Mail Stop F-428

P.O. Box 6508

Aurora, Colorado 80045-0508

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency:

Jennifer Silverthorn, Pre-Awards Manager

Address for Certifying Representative:

UCDHSC at Fitzsimons, Grants and Contracts

Fitzsimons Building 500, Mail Stop F-428

P.O. Box 6508

Aurora, Colorado 80045-0508

Telephone for Certifying Representative:

Phone: 303-724-0090, Fax: 303-724-0814

E-mail for Certifying Representative:

zenia@uchsc.edu

Name and Title of Program Director:

Cathy Bodine PhD, CCC-SLP, Associate Professor and Director

Address for Program Director:

UCDHSC

Assistive Technology Partners

601 E. 18th Avenue

Denver, Colorado 80203

Telephone for Program Director:

303-315-1281

E-mail for Program Director:

cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu

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Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):
Lorrie Harkness, Program Coordinator

Address for Program Contact:
UCDHSC
Assistive Technology Partners
601 E. 18th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203

Telephone for Program Contact:
303-315-1279

E-mail for Program Contact:
lorrie.harkness@uchsc.edu

Name of Implementing Entity: Same as above

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity: Not applicable

Address of Implementing Entity: Not applicable

Name and Title of Program Director: Not applicable

Address for Program Director: Not applicable

Telephone for Program Director: Not applicable

E-mail for Program Director: Not applicable

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): Not applicable

Address for Program Director: Not applicable

Telephone for Program Director: Not applicable

E-mail for Program Director: Not applicable

Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

2.1 Identification and Description of the Lead Agency - Identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act.

2.1A Identification and Description of Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is not Designated

In 1989, then Governor Roy Romer designated the Rocky Mountain Resource and Training Institute (RMRTI) as the Lead Agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology (AT) program in Colorado. RMRTI was a collaborative *apolitical* technical assistance center funded by a number of State Agencies dedicated to providing a wide range of health and human services. In 1994, a realignment of State agencies was enacted and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC) assumed responsibility as the Lead Agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Program. Since that time, Assistive Technology Partners (ATP), Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has been responsible for conducting and overseeing the activities of the Statewide AT Program. Since its inception ATP has served as a Statewide AT resource by providing Coloradans with free AT related accessible information and referral services, device demonstrations, technical assistance and training.

The mission of Assistive Technology Partners is for persons with cognitive, sensory, and/or physical disabilities to reach their desired potential at home, school, work and play through the addition of appropriate assistive technologies (AT) to their lives. This mission is accomplished by offering excellent educational opportunities, clinical services, research and development and information/outreach services. ATP has a thirteen year history of established relationships with public and private entities throughout the state and has nurtured partnerships with numerous consumer driven groups such as the Mile High Down Syndrome Association, Easter Seals Colorado, Colorado Brain Injury Association and many others.

During the past 13 years of the Statewide Assistive Technology Program, over 250,000 individuals have participated in AT related educational programs. The Colorado Department of Education (Parts B and C), The Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Colorado Workforce Centers, Independent Living Centers and numerous other community partners, all work closely with ATP to enhance AT device and service distribution and to ensure improved AT related outcomes throughout Colorado and the nation.

ATP has established, long term working relationships with the nine Colorado Independent Living Centers (ILCs) as well as with the 13 member Community College Occupational Educational Services System, public and private university and college disability services programs scattered throughout the State. These collaborations are utilized to provide equipment loans, device demonstrations, training and technical assistance and general public awareness activities. ATP has outfitted each of the nine Independent Living Centers with an adapted computer workstation, a variety of low tech assistive devices and numerous informational and technical assistance packets. The ILCs provide device demonstrations and equipment loan programs for their local constituents.

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Because ATP is housed within the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation within the School of Medicine, rather than within a specific state agency dedicated to a particular population or service, ATP has the flexibility to assist individuals of all ages and all disabilities with their related assistive technology needs. ATP's administrative office is located in Denver, Colorado, with a second office located on the Western Slope of Colorado in Grand Junction. Plans are underway to open a third office in Colorado Springs (Southeast quadrant of the state) within the next 20 months. These three offices, along with the established statewide partnerships, enable ATP to offer comprehensive services statewide. All facilities are barrier-free and open to the public at least five days per week during business hours, and often open in the evenings and weekends for open house/equipment demonstrations and other activities. In addition, ATP has a van outfitted with a number of AT devices, informational brochures and pamphlets (including alternate formats) and other items necessary to provide services to rural and underrepresented constituents. Repeat visits have been made to over 180 communities since the van was purchased and have enabled numerous device demonstrations, technical assistance, workshops and other public awareness and educational events to take place throughout the State of Colorado. For the past nine years, ATP has hosted a collaborative, Rocky Mountain Regional Assistive Technology conference that promotes public awareness, knowledge acquisition, and informed decision making by constituents. In 2005, over 600 family members, persons with disabilities and professionals from 17 states attended the conference.

The ATP facilities (over 10,00 square feet) include seven laboratories: Positioning and Mobility, Electronic Aids to Daily Living (EADL), Computer Access, state-of-the-art Windows-based and Macintosh Computer Labs, Virtual Reality and Adaptable Configurable Strength Training Development and a Sleep Positioning Lab (one of the first located in the Western United States). The labs are used to conduct demonstrations/awareness activities, AT evaluations, trainings, course- and lab-work by students, and new product design, development and testing. ATP also houses a \$1.6 million statewide AT loan-bank, several federally and privately funded research projects (National Institutes of Health (NICHD and NIA), IBM Watson Research Labs), including three of the National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation (NIDRR) funded Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) projects (Advancing Cognitive Technologies-Lead agency, Recreational Technologies-subcontractor and Wheelchair Transportation and Safety-subcontractor) and a full cadre of 27 highly qualified AT specialists from a wide range of disciplines. ATP staff has a combined history of over 250 years of AT experience with six individuals having between 12-25 years experience in the field of Assistive Technology. The statewide consumer advisory council (described in Attachment 3) has worked diligently with the ATP team to develop the comprehensive Statewide Assistive Technology Plan.

Dr. Bodine, with over twenty years of AT experience has served as the principal investigator of the Statewide AT Program since 1996. She is ably assisted by Assistant Director, Maureen Melonis MNS, CCC-SLP, and a core leadership team comprised of Lorrie Harkness, Ph.D., program coordinator, Julia Beems MA, HTR, outreach and dissemination coordinator and Jim Sandstrum MA, CCC-SLP, direct services coordinator.

ATP routinely provides CART services, Sign Language Interpreting, Braille, audiotape, large print and accessible electronic access to all products and services produced or associated with the project and facilities. ATP serves as a resource for the University of Colorado community and others throughout the state in the provision of guidelines and information relative to

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accommodations and modifications for full accessibility. Information services are available via a fully-accessible web-site (www.uchsc.edu/atp), a toll-free number (800-255-2477), phone (including TDD), fax and email.

Ensuring consumer responsiveness is a focal point for ATP. At the completion of every training activity, workshop or other 'classroom' type activity, attendees are asked to provide verbal and written feedback, including a critique of the event. In addition, regional focus groups are held each year in the various areas of the state to ascertain consumer needs are being heard, as well as being met. Annual performance evaluations are conducted of all contracted partner activities by an internal and external evaluator. Performance results are shared at each quarterly meeting of the Advisory Council and the Advisory Council is asked to provide feedback and performance evaluation information as well. The Advisory Council has agreed to provide oversight and direction to the new State Plan. They have agreed to spend time at each meeting reviewing accountability measures and results and will provide ongoing feedback to ensure ATP is meeting the objectives of the State Plan. In addition, a subcommittee of the Advisory Council including the Chair person and three members will meet periodically with the ATP reviewers for planning and review of data.

At this time, we do not plan any new subcontracts. Instead we will continue to utilize long-standing memorandums of understanding and ongoing contracts that have been developed with the Colorado Department of Education and Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (Transitioning of AT devices between systems and service delivery), The Denver Children's Hospital (administrative support), and Early Childhood Initiatives (Training and Technical Assistance).

2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is Designated
Not applicable

2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity – Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor.
Not applicable

2.3 Show of Good Cause for Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity – If the Governor has chosen to change the Lead Agency or, if applicable, Implementing Entity as allowed in section 4(c)(1)(C) of the AT Act, provide an explanation of good cause for this redesignation.
Not applicable

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Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

3.1 Membership of the Advisory Council - Identify the members of the Advisory Council and each member's designation as an individual with disabilities who uses AT, a family member or guardian of such individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

The Advisory Council has been in existence since 1989. Over the years, it has evolved from a loosely structured entity that met quarterly, to a group of talented and experienced individuals entirely dedicated to creating a seamless system of AT device and service delivery for citizens of all ages with disabilities living in Colorado. Advisory Council members meet on a regular basis, often monthly, and provide dedicated leadership, programmatic and fiscal support, and oversight of ATP activities. As a group, they have provided a great deal of input to the State Plan and will serve as primary evaluators/respondents. 56% of the members are persons with disabilities who use assistive technologies or are parents/guardians of individuals who use assistive technologies. As a result of the Advisory Committee, a tremendous amount of activity and work outputs occur. Members with specific interests often volunteer for ad hoc committees and report results back to the group.

With the implementation of the new Colorado Assistive Technology Program, the Advisory Council has adopted new bylaws that were approved at the June 2006 meeting. In the future the Advisory Committee will be appointed from the membership on the Colorado Assistive Technology Coalition (AT Coalition) and conduct business as a part of the regularly set AT Coalition meetings. The AT Coalition is a well established group of individuals who are state leaders in the area of assistive technology. Among their accomplishment is the formation of an AT Center on the western slope of the State. (Described at the end of this section.)

The following individuals have served as advisors to Statewide Assistive Technology Program in the past and if not already members of the AT Coalition will be invited to become members which enable them to be appointed to the revised Colorado Assistive Technology Program Advisory Council. Advisory Council Members will be formally appointed at the August AT Coalition meeting.

Members to be considered for appointment to the Advisory Council include:

Colorado does not have a separate division for the blind

Debbie McCloud from the Talking Book Library serves as the primary representative of those who are blind or have visual impairments to the Council.

Ken Schmidt, from the Colorado Department of Vocational Rehabilitation who is blind, serves in an administrative capacity for the Division of the Blind as well as the Independent Living Centers.

Individuals with Disabilities

Rick Keeton, Greeley, Colorado

PJ Loomis, Englewood, Colorado

Jerry Soria, Littleton, Colorado

Family Members

Holly Ancell, Greenwood Village, Colorado

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Brad Ancell, Greenwood Village, Colorado
 Debbie Berger, Broomfield, Colorado
 Justin Berger, Broomfield, Colorado
 Carol Hambleton, Denver, Colorado
 Kelly Stahlman, Littleton, Colorado
 ** & *Christy Blakely, Littleton, Colorado

State Agency Representatives

Booker T. Graves, Executive Director, Office of Workforce Development, Department of Labor, Denver, Colorado
 MaryAnn Harvey, Executive Director, The Legal Center for Persons with Disabilities and the Older People, Denver, Colorado and Grand Junction, Colorado
 Jami Goetz, Special Education, University of Colorado at Denver
 Judy Emery, Director, Colorado WINS, Denver, Colorado
 Jeanette Hensley, Division of Aging and Adult Services, Denver, Colorado
 Alex Hernandez, Colorado Talking Book Library, Denver, Colorado
 Debbie McLeod, Colorado Talking Book Library, Denver, Colorado
 Karen Fehringer, Colorado Department of Public Health, Denver, Colorado
 Kathy Watters, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Public Health, Denver, Colorado
 **Ken Schmidt, Executive Director, Field Services, Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Administrator Statewide Independent Living Centers, Denver, Colorado
 **Nancy Smith, Executive Director, Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Denver, Colorado
 **Sue Tuffin, Executive Director, Mesa County Workforce Center, Mesa County, Colorado
 *Terri Connolly, Director, Exceptional Student Services Unit, Colorado Department of Education (2005-2006), Denver, Colorado
 * Tom Patton, Supervisor, Early Childhood Initiatives, Colorado Department of Education, Denver, Colorado

At-large Community Membership

William Caile, ATP Advisory Council Chairperson, Boulder, Colorado
 JC Bourque, Hepner & Bourque Associates, Denver, Colorado
 Lisa Hepner, Hepner & Bourque Associates, Denver, Colorado
 *Mike Dino, Patton Boggs, Denver, Colorado

** Persons with Disabilities

*Family Members

3.2 Structure and Operation of the Advisory Council – Describe the structure and operations of the Advisory Council

Individuals with disabilities, family members and at-large community members are recruited because of their direct expertise and knowledge about assistive technology devices and services

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or their demonstrated interest in making a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities. Advisory Council Members are recruited first and foremost for the talent and expertise they bring to the group. State Agency Members are represented by either the Executive Director position or his/her designee and includes twelve organizations. With the exception of the State Agency leadership, members serve a three year term and may elect to continue with the council after a one-year hiatus. The Advisory Council is representative of the demographic and ethnic makeup of the State of Colorado.

The Advisory Council is led by a chairman to be elected by the membership at the August 22, 2006 meeting. Lorrie Harkness, AT Program coordinator works closely with the chairperson on developing the Advisory Council agenda items.

The Advisory Council for the new State plan will meet at least four times annually in Denver, Colorado with transportation assistance provided as needed. We also provide relevant accommodations for those who request them.

Prior to each meeting, Dr. Harkness and the Advisory Council Chairman will meet to set the agenda. A primary component of each meeting will be an update and review of ongoing activities and program evaluation data points. Advisory Council members will be asked to provide feedback, guidance and evaluation of all program activities. Prior to beginning each meeting, members will be polled to determine if there are additional items to add to the agenda. The meeting is conducted using a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order and all members are given the opportunity to actively participate in the meeting. For members unable to travel to the meeting site due to weather or other problems, a conference line and speaker phone will be available and members will be encouraged to make use of this accommodation.

Because the AT Coalition has been working together for several years, a history of trust and candor has been established. The executive directors of the State Agencies are comfortable talking about the difficulties faced by their agencies in attempting to meet the needs of their constituents, and the community members have responded in kind by detailing what they see as system flaws. Together this group is working toward a coherent and sustained ideal of creating a 'seamless system of AT device and service delivery for all persons with disabilities' living in Colorado. The members of the Advisory Council and the AT Coalition view the Statewide Assistive Technology Program as having a pivotal role in operationalizing their vision. They are quick to provide advice and direction and have openly expressed their willingness to work to create additional statewide resources in the coming years.

Decision-making is by consensus, unless consensus cannot be established. In that case, a member vote of the Advisory Council is taken. The Chair and Dr. Harkness will work to continually provide updated information to the members between meetings via an electronic distribution list. Minutes of each meeting are recorded and distributed within two working days of the meeting and are approved by the council at the next meeting. Formal program performance evaluations will be presented to the Council for review and discussion. Input from the Council has been sought throughout the past year for establishment of performance indicators and data for these indicators will be highlighted for Council membership

The ATP office located in Grand Junction, Colorado called the Western Slope Technical Assistance Center (WesTAC) is a direct outgrowth of the dedicated advisory membership. The

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WesTAC office is instrumental in enabling us to offer a Statewide Assistive Technology Program for the majority of the underrepresented and rural populations living in Western Colorado. Because of the geography and the demographics of Colorado, there are a number of communities that are extremely difficult to reach during the winter months. There are also a number of communities that have either an extremely small or an extremely large population base. Having an office in Grand Junction has addressed this challenge by providing a year round capability that was previously missing in the state.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

Because we are implementing an entirely new performance planning process, we have decided to work during year 2 to establish baseline measurements for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7. During the first quarter of year 3, we plan to submit an amendment to the plan identifying the short-and long-term goals set to improve upon the baseline measures. Baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA in the coming months. Short-term goals were developed in collaboration with the Advisory Council members and faculty and staff of ATP.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and who made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an educational need as a result of the assistance they receive
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and who made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an employment need as a result of the assistance they receive
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and who made a decision about an AT device or service that meets a community living need as a result of the assistance they receive.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and who made a decision about an AT device or

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service that meets an IT or telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they receive.

- Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who acquired a device or utilized services from an alternative financing activity or reutilization program that met an educational need who would not have obtained the AT device or services without these resources.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who acquired a device or utilized services from an alternative financing activity or reutilization program that met a vocational need who would not have obtained the AT device or services without these resources.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who acquired a device or utilized services from an alternative financing activity or reutilization program that met a community living need who would not have obtained the AT device or services without these resources
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established

4.8 Additional Measurable Goals—If applicable, describe any measurable goals that the State has set in addition to the goals established in items 4.1 through 4.7 for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology.

Not applicable

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Attachment 5: State-level Activities

5.1 State Financing Activities – Describe how the State will implement State financing activities as described in section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act.

Background:

Five years ago, program staff created an advisory council sub-committee called the “AT Coalition”. The committee is comprised of persons with disabilities, executive directors of the Office of Workforce Development, the Colorado Department of Education, The Legal Center for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly, Institutions of Higher Education, and the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The group meets 4-6 times each year. The goal is for all Coloradans to receive the assistive technology devices and services they need at any stage in their life, particularly when transitioning across various systems such as from an educational to a vocational or higher education system. The Coalition has become so successful in collaboration and knowledgeable about assistive technology needs in Colorado that it is being reorganized to take on the responsibilities of the Advisory Council. (See attachment 3: State Advisory Council)

The initial endeavor was to raise money for an alternative loan program. Once it became apparent funds and other supports were not readily available at that time within Colorado for a financial loan program due to significant budget deficits across State government, energies were redirected to creating a system of AT device and service delivery that encompasses all Coloradans with disabilities across the lifespan, with particular emphasis on transitioning devices and services across systems. The Advisory Council is working to assist in the establishment of State Financing activities, the assistive technology device loan bank, reutilization program and education, demonstration, public awareness and technical assistance activities.

There is no ‘one-stop’ shop for learning about funding opportunities, nor is there a single process for determining which funding mechanism is most appropriate for individual consumers. In order to assist Coloradans with disabilities to obtain the technology they need and to assist them to make an informed decision regarding purchasing, we will create a fully-accessible, secure, HIPAA compliant, statewide on-line database that will quickly and easily enable individuals with disabilities, their families, and/or care providers to determine how and where they should proceed to secure adequate funding to meet their current assistive technology device and service needs. This database, AT Funding Sources, differs from an information and referral service because it directly assists Coloradans with disabilities to obtain needed funding to purchase AT devices and services for their specific needs. It will also assist them to navigate the funding maze that exists across various service agencies and reduce frustration. ATP staff will provide follow-up tracking in order to ascertain whether or not individuals with disabilities received the technology they need. State agencies such as Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, State Medicaid services, etc. have committed to facilitating adoption of the ‘one-stop’ funding resource database by their personnel as well as the constituents they serve. Development of the database and technical assistance is being provided by ATP personnel. Already, an extensive list of funders has been identified. However, in meetings, one-on-one conversation, we have learned that people are not aware of all of the resources. Once developed, AT Funding Sources will be a valuable resource.

At this point Colorado does not have any alternative financing activities in place; although much planning and work is in process (see below). During the first year of this 3-year plan, the AT

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Coalition/Advisory Council considered various alternative funding programs that would provide options for people with disabilities living in Colorado to obtain AT at an affordable cost, in a timely manner and that would give them choice and control over the devices they choose. As a result of this work the following actions are in place:

1. An online study on the feasibility of a low interest assistive technology loan program is being conducted and will be completed by October 2006. Individuals have the option of submitting a hard copy response by mail or fax as well. ATP staff are hand carrying the surveys to meetings in an effort to increase the response rate.
2. Discussions are taking place with Utah, New Mexico, and Kansas about the option of partnering with one of these states that already have successful low interest loan programs. A decision on whether to pursue this option will be made following the completion of the feasibility study. A RESNA staff person is facilitating these discussions as well as providing technical assistance on loan programs.
3. Association of American People with Disabilities (AAPD) has a national Access Loan Program that is being explored as a resource that could be marketed to Colorado residents to access assistive technology. Consideration is being given to subsidizing membership fees if necessary.
4. ATP staff is on the workgroup established by RESNA to make recommendations to ATIA on better access to current technology for our loan banks, demos
5. AT Funding Sources, a fully accessible statewide on-line database system that meets all HIPAA Security Standards to enable individuals with disabilities, their families, and/or care providers to have a single point of entry to determine where they should seek adequate funding to meet their current assistive technology device and service needs is scheduled for completion October 2006. Activities to support implementation will include:
 - Conducting repeated usability studies of the system during development and implementation;
 - Encouraging acceptance of the system by medical, educational, vocational, independent living centers, and private funders through their inclusion in the development process;
 - Providing the same information in alternate formats as requested; and,
 - Creating a system of continuous monitoring and ongoing evaluation to determine whether or not users of the system received the assistive technology devices and services they requested.

5.2 Device Reutilization Program – Describe how the State will implement a device reutilization program as described in section 4(e)(2)(B) of the Act.

The device reutilization program will assist individuals with disabilities to obtain needed AT devices at a discount or for free—creating a more affordable solution for those who do not have alternative funding sources. In addition, this system will allow devices no longer manufactured to continue to be used by those who need them; and will provide for faster access to technologies in local communities.

In order to implement a device reutilization program, ATP plans to capitalize on the concept of a web-enabled store front much like those available at amazon.com, overstock.com, etc. for recycling AT products. For both the device reutilization program and the AT Loan Bank of

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Equipment (described in 5.3) a similar approach will be used. This will enable ease-of-use by constituents interested in both the loan bank and device re-utilization.

In the case of the device reutilization program, equipment will be posted to the online store front by the user community and external organizations. The user community will be able to view a fully accessible version of the products online. If interested in a product(s), they can add it to their shopping cart. When the user has completed shopping, they can proceed to the check out. Email notifications will be sent to both the user and administrators to complete the transaction.

During the next three years ATP will work to assist persons with disabilities, their families, and caregivers to obtain needed assistive technology devices through a partnership with AT Match that was established in June 2006. AT Match is a fully accessible web based AT exchange program developed in Kansas that allows for the donation or sale of used devices and equipment as well as providing search capabilities for consumers looking for specific devices and equipment. Implementation of Colorado's AT Match is targeted for fall 2006. Following implementation the activities listed below will be conducted to assure maximum usage:

- Conducting repeated testing of the system to ensure accessibility;
- Monitoring usage to ensure safety and security of users;
- Providing information in alternate formats as needed (e.g. print version/telephone, etc.);
- Working with University of Colorado Health Sciences Center legal counsel to develop necessary disclaimers regarding equipment transactions;
- Conducting follow-up monitoring to determine satisfaction with the system and whether or not the necessary equipment was obtained and usable;
- Sharing evaluation data points with Advisory Council membership and soliciting feedback and advice for improvement of the system; and,
- Marketing the system via accessible electronic methods, print and other applicable media.

Hard copies and copies in alternate format of this information will be available on a quarterly basis for distribution for those who do not have access to the Internet.

5.3 Device Loan Program – Describe how the State will implement a device loan program as described in section 4(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

In order to assist individuals with disabilities, their families, care providers, and others to make informed decisions regarding specific AT devices, ATP is in the process of making the loan bank more accessible through the following activities:

1. In the first year, an online, fully accessible, web-enabled product catalog was developed for persons with disabilities, parents/ families and professionals to identify the AT items available in the statewide loan bank and to check these devices out for trial usage.
2. In years two and three, ATP will continue to seek additional funding to expand the offerings available to constituents by
 - a. writing foundation grant proposals
 - b. expanding partnerships with State Agencies
 - c. as funding permits, purchasing devices through the ATP Statewide Program, and
 - d. working with vendors to encourage additional donations to the loan bank as well as 'bulk' purchase pricing, and pursuing lease options.

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3. Market the AT loan bank statewide via accessible print, electronic and other media.
4. Share product reviews by the constituents with vendors; and,
5. Continue to create 'cheat sheets' for device operations that are included with products in the loan bank.

For the past five years, ATP has operated a statewide AT device loan program. ATP in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education (Parts B & C), the Colorado Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Howard Fund Foundation and the Office of Workforce Development have built the loan program from an initial cache of \$100,000 of equipment to well over \$1.6 million.

ATP has also benefited from the use of the Statewide Library Courier System. Each week, a courier picks up equipment for delivery throughout the State of Colorado at a cost of \$8 per site. Equipment is delivered to either the local public library or a school-based library for pick-up by the individual checking out the equipment. During the past twelve months, the program has averaged between 450-470 devices in the field each week.

Constituents can check out equipment for one of two reasons. One, if they wish to trial the device with someone with a disability or two, if they wish to learn how to operate the device. ATP is currently piloting a 13 county program based out of the WestTAC office where equipment is loaned to individuals of all ages, with particular emphasis on individuals transitioning between systems such as Part C to Part B or Part B to Vocational Rehabilitation services. Training and continuing education are provided at community-based events and staff is working diligently to ensure technology is available to persons with disabilities across the lifespan. In Grand Junction, Colorado, staff is specifically targeting the Independent Living Center as a collaborator as well as the Division of Aging to encourage additional usage across the lifespan.

Currently, the loan bank contains over 1000 AT products. The online catalog will provide product descriptions, features, images, and availability of all the products managed by the loan bank. The product catalog will closely resemble other web store fronts commonly found to sell products (I.e. Amazon, Wal-Mart, etc.). The store front will be complete with checkout systems which include email notifications to loan bank administrators and selection response to the requesting practitioner indicating items requested and availability.

When visiting the storefront users are provided a vehicle to view AT products by category such as AT for vision, hearing, etc. or age of user or disability. Users can read/ write reviews on products including implementation ideas for home, school, work, and play. Sorting features are available so users can help identify potential AT based on unique features such as dynamic display etc.

This tool will allow rapid access to the loan bank items as well as assistance in choosing appropriate AT. By having the items paired with a photo and its features, practitioners can more readily discern the appropriateness of the AT for the individual they are working with. Also, they can share information immediately with persons with disabilities and their families. Requestors will be able to easily identify and select appropriate AT to borrow for trial use by individuals with disabilities. (Because the system is web based it is readily available to anyone with internet access, including those who live in rural communities.)

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When the requestor identifies an item that they want to trial, they add the item to their shopping cart. When they have completed 'shopping', the check out form must be completed. The check out form requests contact information and delivery information required for the Colorado Library Courier System (I.e. Courier Code).

Currently, the printed version of the product catalog is quickly out-dated as new technologies are added to the loan bank. The online catalog will be easily updated as new inventory is made available for loan. This is a huge reduction in time and cost to prepare and disseminate published versions of the product catalog.

The AT Device Loan Bank will support potential end-users of equipment and their practitioners and family members to make an informed choice about the potential for an assistive technology device to produce the desired result. The written reviews by users, their families and professionals provide valuable feedback on specific AT devices. Several vendors have requested product reviews from the staff. These written reviews are a valuable mechanism to gather information for future product enhancements.

5.4 Device Demonstration Program – Describe how the State will implement a device demonstration program as described in section 4(e)(2)(D) of the Act.

ATP's device demonstration program operates in close collaboration with its ongoing device loan bank program. For the past nine years, ATP has hosted a monthly 'open house' at Assistive Technology Partners, and for the past two years, at the Grand Junction location. Each month, a particular type of equipment is chosen to focus on. For example, July 2006, the focus was on AT for early childhood. Experienced AT specialists are present to offer hands-on demonstrations, conversation and information sharing. These demonstrations provide members of the community with an opportunity to learn about the equipment, specific functionality, ask questions and compare similar devices. This "try before you buy" approach enables persons with disabilities to decrease the chance of inappropriate equipment purchases leading to AT abandonment and enables consumers to make an informed decision regarding whether or not the technology is appropriate for their needs.

In addition to ongoing monthly open houses, ATP staff also travel throughout the state of Colorado to various trade shows, conferences, schools, vocational rehabilitation offices, and other requested locations to demonstrate technology, increase public awareness, and to provide as much information as possible. The plan is to continue this service and at the same time, increase ATP's web presence to further educate Coloradans interested in learning more about specific AT devices and services.

For any and all device demonstration programs, constituents are asked to register in advance of the event. While drop-ins are welcome, visitors are encouraged to pre-register so their needs can be met effectively and staff is prepared in advance.

During the next two years we plan to:

1. Continue to upgrade equipment resources annually;
2. Continue to expand the knowledge base of the Assistive Technology Specialists. Each AT Specialist will attend at least one major AT related conference each year in order to

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share their knowledge as well as to improve their knowledge related to the field of assistive technology;

3. Continue to broaden the community-based support by soliciting new venues for device demonstrations and enhanced partnerships with constituents. February 2006 ATP created an “Adapted Home” at the Pueblo Museum where 150 people from the southeast part of Colorado came to see technology demonstrated that assists in daily living. Annually, at the Collaborative Rocky Mountain Conference the Adapted Home attracts over 300 visitors. ATP has been invited to Grand Junction to exhibit the Adapted Home.
4. Conduct a minimum of 30 device demonstration events each year.

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Attachment 6: Comparable Support

6.1 Source and Amount of Support – Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the amount of the support, and the project year for which this support is being provided.

Not applicable

6.2 Comparability -- Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

Not applicable

6.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities and collaborate with the appropriate entity, if the comparable funds are provided to, or the activities are conducted by, an entity other than the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity.

Not applicable

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Attachment 7: State Flexibility

7.1 Activity – Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out.

7.2 Maintenance of Statewideness and Comprehensiveness – Demonstrate that the Statewide AT Program will continue to be comprehensive without conducting this activity.

Not applicable

7.3 Achievement of Measurable Goals - Demonstrate that the State can reach its measurable education goals, employment goals, telecommunications and information technology goals, and community living goals without conducting such activities.

Not applicable

7.4 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will coordinate activities and collaborate with entities in the State that do conduct this activity, if the State chooses not to conduct this activity because another entity already conducts it.

Not applicable

Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities – Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education and businesses as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(i) of the AT Act.

Assistive Technology Partners has developed an extensive reputation as an excellent resource for assistive technology training and technical assistance. The staff works extremely hard to provide excellent training opportunities for those interested in learning more about assistive technology devices and services. Training activities completed in the first year included:

- Customized Trainings designed to focus on specific need areas requested by constituents, including transition planning;
- An annual Rocky Mountain Regional Collaborative Conference in partnership with sister Statewide AT Programs from New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona, Utah and occasionally Nebraska (over 600 attendees each year);
- Implemented the second year of a Masters and PhD program in Clinical Sciences within the School of Medicine with an emphasis in Assistive Technology consisting of 18 graduate credit hours in AT and bioengineering; To date 30 students have been enrolled in this program.
- Customized hands-on training for Part C early childhood interventionists throughout the State of Colorado, including web-based learning tools
- Conducted the annual training with Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residents;
- Customized training for Independent Living Centers, Vocational Rehabilitation, Colorado's Workforce Centers, and other agencies, to include transition planning.
- Conducted specific trainings focused on consumer and family issues such as funding streams, implementation of technologies across environments and many other training activities.

ATP's Training plan for the next two years is to continue to expand training efforts:

1. In addition to the already rigorous schedule, three new distance education modules via the University AHEC system (up to 13 communities) will be delivered each year (2005-Autism & AT, AT for Persons with Severe Needs & Utilizing Multi-Media & AT);
2. Expand ATP's web-presence with on-line training modules using BlackBoard™.
3. Develop additional training modules and technical assistance activities focused on transition and assistive technology.
 - a. One module will be directed toward an audience of special educators, transition coordinators, vocational rehabilitation counselors, and workforce center staff designed to provide expertise on incorporating assistive technology successfully in all transition planning.
 - b. The second module will be directed toward transition and supported living environments such as community-based environments, nursing homes and assisted living centers and independent living centers

- c. A third module will focus on AT and early childhood. It will address AT applications for children 0-3 and assist families as the children transition from Part B to Part C services.
- 4. Continue to highlight transition issues, AT devices and services, and community living as a topic 'track' during the annual collaborative assistive technology conference and infuse transition information in all relevant training events throughout the year.

Information and referral will continue to be provided via ATP's national 800 number, email, phone and fax as well as the fully accessible web-site. Hands-on technical assistance to agencies and information and referral to individuals will also be provided at the two main offices as well as throughout the State per scheduled visits to various communities. Although difficult to track, in past years ATP has provided information and referral information in a wide range of formats to hundreds of individuals over the past year. Activities have varied from telephone assistance to individuals needing to know how to program an augmentative/alternative communication device, to information and referral to various funding sources, AT vendors, and/or service providers. ATP staff spends many hours each week responding to telephone and electronic requests for assistance and will continue to provide this valuable and much needed service during the next three years.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities – Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

Information and Referral. ATP's *toll-free number* 1-800-255-3477, as well as the accessible *web-site* is available to provide Coloradans access to free information and referral services. In addition, *ATP is fully staffed* at least six days per week to provide live voice information. For constituents with disabilities, ATP provides access to a toll-free TDD as well as text enabled access to electronic information. Other accommodations are available upon request. Together these venues enable ATP to provide up to the minute information related to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and services.

As a component of ATP's internal program evaluation, ATP plans to solicit quality assurance information and service satisfaction data during each of the next three years on a quarterly basis.

Newsletter. During the past year, ATP implemented an electronic and print copy newsletter specific to Coloradans interested in assistive technology devices and services. ATP plans to continue this effort on a quarterly basis and solicit new recipients. This newsletter is currently distributed to over 8000 individuals and includes information about the 'latest' AT devices and services, AT related community events including upcoming workshops, conferences, meetings, etc. Funding information and strategies for obtaining necessary devices and services are also highlighted. The newsletter is available in alternate formats including electronic text, Braille, large print and other formats as requested.

Publications. ATP has created several hundred publications during the past several years. These publications are titled: a) Fast Facts; b) Make-n-Takes; c) Tech Topics; and d) AT Resources. These publications assist Coloradans to make informed decisions about potential assistive

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technology devices and services, expand the knowledge base of practitioners, and facilitate production of low cost, low tech devices for use by persons with disabilities. During the next three years ATP will:

1. continue to develop additional informational brochures
2. publish these brochures to the ATP web-site; and,
3. make all publications available in alternate formats.

8.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) of the AT Act.

Statewide Assistive Technology program personnel plan to continue to actively facilitate the membership and activities of the advisory council. As described earlier, this dynamic group has developed an active working relationship with a clear focus on coordinating activities among public and private entities. Below are some examples of the ongoing collaborative efforts to date and plans for the next three years.

1. ATP personnel have collaborated with Colorado's Workforce Centers to install, train, and facilitate the implementation of over \$300,000 of assistive devices within the One-Stop Centers. Colorado serves as a national model for the 'consumer navigator' program. Consumer navigators are individuals with disabilities or family members of someone with a disability. Housed within the Colorado Workforce Center, these navigators provide support and facilitate access to the One-Stop Centers services for persons with disabilities and/or their caregivers. ATP personnel have provided extensive training and support to the Workforce Centers and this collaborative activity has resulted in persons with disabilities having equal access to the supports and services of the workforce centers, increased public awareness, and increased referrals for appropriate assistive technology devices and services. During the next three years, ATP plans to expand training and equipment within the workforce centers.
2. For the past five years, ATP personnel have provided coordination and support to Colorado's Public School Assistive Technology Teams. Beginning with 354 personnel, the teams have now expanded to a network of more than 550 trained AT personnel working in Colorado's schools. In collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education (Part B), ATP provided numerous training opportunities, competency development, access to a statewide loan bank, and hundreds of informational publications. Staff provides ongoing technical assistance and support to these personnel and the families they serve. This collaboration will continue to result in enhanced service provision to Colorado's 80,000 plus infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities who need assistive technology devices and services to access a free and appropriate education.
3. For the past two years, ATP personnel have worked with the Part C Early Childhood Interventionists to ensure infants, toddlers and young children receive access to assistive technology devices and services. To date, 22 personnel have received training to serve as AT resource members throughout the state, an early

childhood loan bank of equipment has been established, and ongoing training and technical assistance are provided to ensure ongoing skills development by practitioners. ATP expects this collaboration to continue and to increase the number of children birth to three who benefit from assistive technology devices and services. In addition, ATP will train additional personnel this year about the need for inclusion of assistive technology devices and services in transition planning..

4. For the past fifteen years, personnel have collaborated extensively with the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). ATP has been included in the “new counselor training program”, the annual Statewide Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living Center’s conference, ongoing statewide training of vocational rehabilitation counselors and have worked to provide assistive technology solutions for 100’s of individuals served by DVR. ATP expects this collaboration to continue and to result in enhanced employment outcomes for persons receiving service through Colorado vocational rehabilitation services.
5. In addition to the collaborations mentioned above, ATP has a long and established tradition of collaborating with the local protection and advocacy services system, family-based organizations such as Family Voices, and PEAK Parent Center; local non-profits such as Colorado Easter Seal Society and United Cerebral Palsy Association, and many others. ATP anticipates all of these collaborations will continue and staff will also strive to broaden the depth and scope of collaboration with community partners, agencies and individuals during the next three years.

Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

9.1 Nature and Extent of Resources – Describe the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators to assist in accomplishing identified goals.

Although somewhat difficult to predict precisely what the future resource commitments will be by the public and private collaborators, we do have some available information for the current fiscal year.

To date, we have received a commitment from the Colorado Department of Education (Part B) in the amount of \$493,000 for Year 1 to facilitate ongoing development of the statewide loan bank, continued training and technical assistance to the AT teams located in Colorado. The Part C collaborators committed \$32,943 for Year 1 to support ongoing training and technical assistance of the Part C early childhood interventionists.

During Year 1 the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation committed \$125,000 to facilitate ongoing work at the Grand Junction Assistive Technology Center and the Colorado Office of Workforce Development committed at least \$45,000 for ongoing development of their accessibility features.

In addition, these agencies and the other partners have all committed to work together to further enhance the consumer responsive AT device and services system through the development of a working plan and team designed to secure ongoing, appropriate AT resources for the constituents.

Year 2 agencies will work together to develop a Assistive Technology Center in the southeast region of Colorado.

9.2 Mechanisms to Ensure Coordination - Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the State.

Not applicable

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council - Describe the nature and extent of the involvement of the State Advisory Council in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals required in section 4(d)(3).

The Advisory Council continues to review, advise, and recommend changes to the Statewide AT Program at the regularly set AT Coalition Meetings. The Council has been very involved in the development of the low interest loan feasibility study, the development of the online funding options that they recently named the ‘AT Funding Sources’, and are pleased with the partnership developing with Kansas on their online exchange program, Colorado AT Match.

In upcoming years, the Advisory Council has reorganized in a way to be more actively involved in the implementation of the AT Program and has the goals of the plan on every agenda to review progress and make recommendations as appropriate.

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Attachment 10: State Support

10.1 State Support for State-level Activities – If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

Beyond the resources mentioned earlier in this document, there are no additional State funds available for the State-level activities. As mentioned earlier, the AT Coalition has dedicated significant time and energy to developing a plan of action this year to pursue additional State funds.

10.2 State Support for State Leadership Activities - If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3), if applicable.

There are currently no recurring sources of operational funds available from State sources in support of the State Leadership activities. As mentioned earlier, the AT Coalition has dedicated significant time and energy to developing a plan of action this year to pursue additional State funds.

Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

11.1 Tracking Expenditures – Describe planned procedures for tracking expenditures for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

Since the typical procedures for tracking expenditures such as, the standard funding categories of Personnel, Fringes, Supplies, Equipment, Other Operating Expenses, Travel, and Indirects cannot be applied to State Assistive Technology Program funding plan, we have devised a way to monitor expenditures within each of the funding categories proposed within the plan.

Since most of the funding we are requesting will be directed toward personnel FTEs applied to the specific activities in the plan, we will be able to measure what percentage of time is spent on each activity by clearly delineating each FTE by personnel effort. Personnel expenditures will be allocated based on a percentage of the staff effort associated with one of the State Assistive Technology activities. The percentage of effort will be verified monthly with personnel effort reporting (PER) that will be required of staff funded with State AT funds. This PER will indicate what the activity is, how many hours the staff member applied to the activity, how the activity applies to program objectives, and what the individuals objectives will be for the next month's reporting period.

Tracking of non-personnel expenditures is automated at UCDHSC using PeopleSoft. Using PeopleSoft we are able to create line items and precisely identify and categorize each of them. By using specific account numbers and descriptions the administrator can identify precisely what expenditures have been made for each activity as they relate to rent, travel, and other operating. This type of tracking also allows the administrator to track trends and make projections regarding funding requirements for future proposals. The administrator will reconcile operating expenditures on a monthly basis and create a report that includes personnel effort and operating costs as they apply to each activity in the state plan. This report will be included in the annual report to RSA.

11.2 Proposed Budget Allocations – Attach a budget containing proposed allocations for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

Within the budget below, UCDHSC/ Assistive Technology Partners proposes to apportion funds for specific activities in the following manner. However, these numbers reflect a proposal only, and will serve as an estimate only for Year 2 and Year 3 of this State Plan.

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Year One Funding:

State Level Activities	Amount	
Financing	20,000	70%
Device Reutilization	30,000	
Device Loan Program	100,000	
Device Demonstration	100,000	
State Leadership Activities	Amount	
Training & Technical Assistance	55,000	22%
Public Awareness	20,000	
Coordination & Collaboration	7,137	
Indirects	28,882	8%
Total	\$361,019	100%

Year Two Funding:

State Level Activities	Amount	
Financing	20,000	60% after 10% Indirect = \$204,372
Device Reutilization	20,000	
Device Loan Program	99,772	
Device Demonstration	64,600	
State Leadership Activities	Amount	
Training & Technical Assistance	100,000	40% after 10% Indirect = \$136,248
Transition (5% of 40%)	6,812	
Public Awareness	20,000	
Coordination & Collaboration	9,436	
Indirect	37,847	10%
Total	\$378,467	100%